Meeting times: 12:00 – 1:50pm, Mondays & Wednesdays
Location: Bexell 103
Class Web Page: http://oregonstate.edu/~emersonp/455/455.htm

Professor Patrick M. Emerson
Office: 319B Ballard Hall
Office Hours: M&W 10:00 – 11:30am, & by appointment

Course Description

This course is designed to give you a solid and in-depth introduction to, and overview of, the economics of development. Topics will include: the definition and measurement of development; economic growth; human development, the role of institutions in economic development, micro issues of development (such as agrarian relations, urbanization, child labor, etc.) and macro issues of development (such as trade, foreign aid, debt, etc.). The objective of this course is to give students a good overall knowledge of both the problems and prospects of developing nations and of the economics specific to the issues of development.

Twice in the quarter, if time allows, I will present some of my own research so students can get a taste of academic research in development.

Text

The main text for this course is Development Economics by Debraj Ray. A copy is available for you on 2 hour reserve in the Valley Library.

There is also a supplemental text on 2 hour reserve in the Valley Library in case you should want another reference. It is: Economics of Development (6th Edition) by Perkins, Radelet and Lindauer. This is a newly updated text and I will use a number of graphs and charts from it (rather than the main text) to keep the stats up to date.

My lectures are a mix of material from both of the above texts, other sources as well as my own research and knowledge, so attendance in class is essential for good performance on exams. Simply reading the Ray text is not enough. If you have to miss a lecture, please find a student who is willing to share notes.
**Grading**

Grades will be based on OSU’s 4-point scale.

Students’ grades for this class will be determined by performance on one midterm and one final exam as well as one short paper. The grade weights for these will be as follows: midterm, 35%, final, 40%, paper, 25%. As this is an upper division economics class, students are expected to attend regularly and actively participate in class. Masters level students will be expected to write a considerably longer and more in-depth paper. The weights for masters students’ grades will be: midterm, 25%, final, 30%, paper, 45%.

Note that there are no problem sets, so you need to be diligent in keeping up with readings, going over concepts, and making sure you understand the material.

**Exams**

Below are the dates for the midterm exam and the final week. These will not change barring any unforeseen circumstance beyond my control (school closure, etc.), so INK THEM INTO YOUR CALENDAR NOW. There will be NO make-up exams offered except for those with a valid excuse for missing the exam.

**Midterm**: Monday, February 9, 12:00 – 1:50 PM, Bexell 103.

**Final**: Thursday, March 19, 6:00 – 7:50 PM, Bexell 103.

**Academic Misconduct**

At Oregon State University academic dishonesty is defined by the Oregon Administrative Rules 576-015-0020.1.a-c as: An intentional act of deception in which a student seeks to claim credit for the work or effort of another person or uses unauthorized materials or fabricated information in any academic work. It includes "cheating" (the intentional use or attempted use of unauthorized materials, information, or study aids); "fabrication" (the intentional falsification or invention of any information); "assisting in dishonesty or tampering" (intentionally or knowingly helping or attempting to help another commit an act of dishonesty or tampering with evaluation instruments and documents); and "plagiarism" (intentionally or knowingly representing the words or ideas of another person as one’s own).

Minimum sanction in this class for any incidence of academic misconduct will be the receipt of an F grade for this course and notification of the Dean of your college.

Please be careful, especially when using sources in your paper. Document every such use appropriately. If you ever have any question, ask me or the:
Center for Writing and Learning

The Center for Writing and Learning (CWL) provides a variety of instructional services for students, including a Writing Center and a Study Skills Program. This Writing Center is open to every undergraduate or graduate writer on campus, from any discipline; writers from faculty, staff or the Corvallis area residents are also welcome. Writing Center Assistants help writers with such matters as brainstorming, organizing, and revising, and they can help writers find answers to questions of grammar and usage as well.

For half-hour or hour-long appointment call 737-5640. Short questions about grammar may also be sent by e-mail to the Writing Center Hotline at WritingQ@lists.orst.edu.

The Commanding Heights

Parts of the documentary “The Commanding Heights” will be screened in-class. The documentary tells the story of the history and evolution of competing economic systems and the shaping of the modern global economy. It touches on issues of the history of economic thought, globalization, economic development and the experience of structural adjustment.

More information on the documentary can be found at:
http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/commandingheights/

Though it has it flaws and lacuna, I think it is an exceptional documentary and it is a great way to think about economics in a broad sense, what economic ideas mean, how they are implemented and what they hold for the future – especially for developing countries. It is also pretty timely in the sense that the revolution it talks about my have peaked with the current economic crisis – so I will try and incorporate the current crisis into our discussion of this documentary.

My Blog

As an attempt at engaging students interested in economics outside of the normal class setting, I have started a blog where I comment on economic issues important to Oregon, try and explain economic thinking and theory and otherwise try and make economics accessible and interesting to a lay audience. Please join in the discussion of topics if you wish and if you would like to contribute to the blog by being a guest blogger, send me your proposed post. Though it is primarily a blog that deals with Oregon related subjects, anything is fair game.

The blog can be found at www.oregonecon.blogspot.com
Course Outline: Chapters refer to Debraj Ray, *Development Economics*.

Note: this is an overly ambitious outline, so actual coverage will be a subset of this and/or some sections will be given more cursory treatment while others more in-depth treatment.

I. Introduction to Development
   A. Introduction
   B. Measuring Development and Growth
      Chapter 2
   C. Inequality and Poverty
      Chapters 6, 7 & 8

II. Growth and State Intervention
   A. Growth Concepts and Patterns
      Chapter 3
   B. Growth Theories
      Chapter 4
   C. History, Expectations and Development
      Chapter 5
   D. States and Markets

III. Human Development Topics
   A. Population
      Chapter 9
   B. Labor (Education and Health)
      Chapter 13
   C. Child Labor – Professor Research
   D. Rural and Urban
      Chapter 10

IV. Credit, Insurance, Aid and Debt
   A. Credit
      Chapter 14
   B. Insurance
      Chapter 15
   C. Aid and Debt

V. Production and Trade
   A. Agriculture and Land
      Chapters 11 & 12
   B. Trade and Development
      Chapters 16, 17 & 18

VI. Sustainability and Corruption
   C. Sustainable Development
   D. Corruption – Professor Research